

# PANHANDLE SUN

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

December 2006 / January 2007

## PLS Coordinator's Message

This reminds me of the ironic twists that made the old television series “The Twilight Zone” so fascinating. After millions have embraced the new technologies of blogging and social networks like “MySpace,” a new enterprise has been born: identity management firms. These folks (for a fee) will help you clean up your reputation after you’ve posted photos and comments on the Internet for all to see – including your future employer. What seemed like innocent fun when you shared the picture of you in (or out of) costume at a keg party, may not amuse the person interviewing candidates for the job you hope to get. A recent survey of hiring managers found that one in four use search engines to screen candidates; and one in ten had rejected a candidate because of what was found about the person. Even college admissions officers check on potential students online to help them read between the lines of the application.

As library folks, who are protective of the privacy of our patrons, we may wonder how this can be happening. But as library folks, who are protective of the privacy of our patrons, we also need to help them understand – children, teens, and adults – the consequences of exposing personal information on the Internet. Most of us are aware of the dangers of identity theft and online sexual predators. Although the consequences of having your reputation questioned may not be as grave, it’s one more thing that Internet users of all ages need to know about. Consider hosting a program at your library to help raise awareness about Internet safety. Review the computer curriculum at your school to be sure students are learning about all aspects of Internet use. Excerpts from “An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” may provide some direction. “Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Libraries and librarians protect and promote these rights by ...providing access to (and) providing instruction in the use of recorded expression regardless of the format or technology.” We know what an important tool the Internet is in our lives. As we do with so many other resources in our libraries, let’s be sure we help our library users understand and benefit from the Internet.

Cherie Longmuir

\*\*\*\*\***UPCOMING EVENTS**\*\*\*\*\*

**December 11, 2006 Weeding Part 2**

Location: Alliance Public Library, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Room A, Alliance  
Time: 10 am to Noon

Register by December 6, 2006 with the PLS office

**December 11, 2006 \$Show Me the Money \$ Getting the Grant**

Location: Alliance Public Library, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Room A, Alliance  
Time: 1 to 3 pm

Register by December 6, 2006 with the PLS office

**January 9, 2007 PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Main Floor Conference room  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: The PLS office

**January 18, 2007 Follett Users Group Workshop**

Location: Chadron State College, ESU 13-Scottsbluff, ESU 13-Sidney  
Time: 9:30 am to Noon

Register by January 10, 2007 with the PLS office

**January 18, 2007 ESU School Media Meeting**

Location: Chadron State College, ESU 13-Scottsbluff, ESU 13-Sidney

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Register with Sandy White at ESU 13 in Sidney, Email: [swhite@panesu.org](mailto:swhite@panesu.org)

**February 1, 2007 New Technologies Workshop**

Location: WNCC-Sidney, 371 College Drive, Sidney

Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Register by January 24, 2007 with the PLS office

**February 1, 2007 Live Library Blog**

Librarians talking to each other  
Location: WNCC-Sidney, 371 College Drive, Sidney

Time: 1 to 3 pm

Register by January 24, 2007 with the PLS office

**February 9, 2007 College of DuPage**

Next Generation Librarianship: Where do we go from here?

Panhandle Locations: Chadron State College, ESU 13-Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m. (MST)

Register with the PLS office

**February 14, 2007 Legislative Day**

Location: Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE  
Time: 8:30 a.m. coffee; 9:30 a.m. briefing on legislative issues; noon lunch with Senators

For more information contact the PLS office.

**February 16, 2007 School Library Media Inservice**

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

Contact: Sandy White, ESU 13 Sidney, [swhite@panesu.org](mailto:swhite@panesu.org)

**March 4-10, 2007 Teen Tech Week**

Register for Teen Tech Week at [www.ala.org/teentechweek.wikispaces.com](http://www.ala.org/teentechweek.wikispaces.com)

**March 7, 2007 Summer Reading Program Workshop**

Location: Gering Public Library, 1055 P Street, Gering

Time: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch is on your own

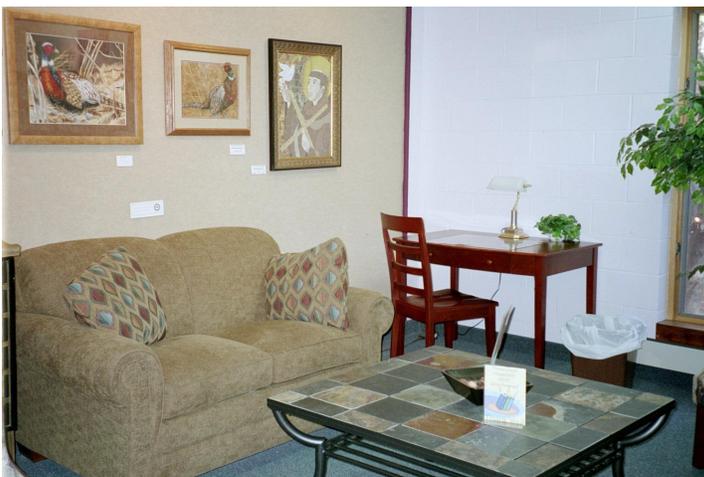
Register by March 1, 2007 with PLS



**Author Alex Kava, whose book One False Move was the 2006 selection for “One Book, One Nebraska,” spoke to a capacity crowd at Alliance Public Library.**



**These “students” in the Basic Skills class are happy to be done learning about library administration! The next class, “Public Services,” begins on April 10.**



**The “community’s living room.”  
Gering Public Library staff recently redecored their reading area with funds from the Friends of the Library.**

Scottsbluff Public Library is moving along in the process of expanding their facility. Director Bev Russell explained at a public meeting recently that the design is the same, but how the project will be accomplished has changed, due to the smaller amount of funding that the city is providing. They will break ground next year, and the first phase will be to enlarge the children’s, teens’, computer, genealogy and staff areas. This \$4.1 million stage will add 23,000 square feet of space. The fundraising will begin in earnest early in 2007. Consultant Mike Schmidt emphasized the importance of being flexible in library planning, and making sure the community is involved in the entire process. He noted that when community members are asked about supporting the library, the first thing they comment on is the quality of the staff!

## Inside Our Libraries

**Lyman PL** achieved first-time accreditation status this year. A dynamic staff (of two) and supportive board members worked hard to show that in a town where even the local bar has closed, the library is still vital. Other libraries that met the accreditation standards this year were Mitchell PL (one of only 12 libraries in the state to reach the excellent level); Alliance, Gering, Gordon, Kimball (at the enhanced level); and Chadron, Grant County, Oshkosh, and Scottsbluff (at the essential level).

**Grant County Library** is also celebrating profits of over \$1000 from their annual bake and craft sale. They will hold a holiday open house on December 8. **Gering PL** will use the Keno funds they received to install a wireless Internet network. The Girl Scouts will be decorating a tree for the holidays at **Sidney PL**. Children's librarian Eileen Nightingale will be Mrs. Claus in the Sidney Winter Festival. Her job? To tell stories to children! **Goodall City Library** in Ogallala achieved their fundraising goal, and purchased all new shelving for the library. They have also established a genealogy club that meets on Saturdays. Both new and experienced genealogists share research tips and learn how to use the HeritageQuest database to find family information.

Stacie Hermes, director of **Potter PL**, is weeding her collection in hopes of adding a library automation system in the future. The high school community involvement group is painting boards with playful pictures of children and animals reading books which will be placed in the library's upper windows that look out onto main street. Stacie is taking welding classes, and hopes to make a wrought iron library sign. But she still has time to care for a flock of lambs, who sometimes visit story time to "liven" things up.

Deb Finley, who must now fit her **Hemingford Library** duties around the job of cuddling her first grand daughter (after a string of grand sons!), has entered 3000 books into her Follett automation system. She downloads records from Library of Congress, and weeds each shelf as she goes. After being the sole employee for several years, she now has some part time assistance. She provided the library's first summer reading program this past June. After upgrading the collection, adding computers, and redesigning the space, Deb's ongoing challenge is just getting more people to use the library.

Ann Cain director at **Morrill PL**, and her Board, selected the automation company Book Systems, and their Concord program, to begin creating their computer catalog. It is less expensive than some of the larger systems, but seems to have all the features that a small library requires, and is easy to use. They will be able to share their experience with other small libraries that are not yet automated. Two ambitious volunteers will be working their way through the collection and downloading records.





The building next to Mitchell PL was purchased by the Library Foundation and then demolished to make room for the library expansion.



Here's a note from director Maryruth Reed about the project: "Things are bright indeed at the Mitchell Public Library. We have started an expansion project, the first phase of which was to purchase and tear down an old day care building next door. With the building removed, our south-facing windows let in lots of sunshine. The projected cost of the addition is \$400,000. We hope to have it completed within five years. The addition will have a meeting room, more computer space, and a new children's area." Fundraising began in June, with the theme "We're Bursting at the Seams," and to date over \$40,000 has been raised.

### **Library Linking**

Cindy Mielke, director of Goodall City Library in Ogallala, gave a presentation at the NLA/NEMA conference about how crucial it is for the library to be connected to its community. She recommends starting with one connection. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce Promotions Committee. Because she was "at the table," the committee chose to promote the library during National Library Week. Numerous businesses took out ads to support the library's shelving project – which resulted in \$1500 in donations, and expanded exposure of the library's fundraising effort.

She suggests creating library visibility at every community event, for example, have a booth at the health fair featuring print and electronic medical resources available at the library. Bottom line: don't wait for people to come to you; get out and let them know what you have at the library.

## *Technology Teamwork*

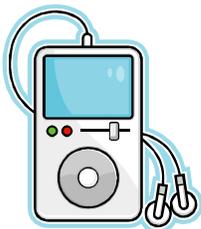
The Nebraska Regional Library Systems wrote a joint grant to provide samples of some new technology for libraries to use and to learn about. Although the iPod and similar MP3 format devices were only introduced 5 years ago, nearly 70 million people have purchased them. How can we connect with customers who have adopted this technology?

One way is to offer books that can be played on an iPod. Digital audio books may be purchased individually from companies like Audible.com. Or libraries may subscribe to a service which provides a connection to a library of audio books, that people check out and download from their local library's website. Two companies that provide this service are Recorded Books/NetLibrary and OverDrive. Many types of programs (such as radio shows and instructional materials) are also being podcast, so that people can download them to a computer or their player and listen to them at their convenience. The ability to access the materials anytime and take them anywhere is appealing to many people. For libraries, it's advantageous to be able to offer a collection of materials that requires no processing, takes no shelf space, and requires very little, if any, handling.

For those who aren't interested in the download process, but like the portability, another new product is Playaways. These are books that are already loaded on an iPod device. You purchase the book, much the way you would purchase a CD audio book. It comes in a case so that it can be shelved with other media. But the player inside is ready to turn on and listen to – and small enough to fit in your pocket. These items may be purchased at a discount when ordered through the Nebraska Library Commission.

**Panhandle Library System has 10 Playaway books to loan to libraries.** We encourage you to try them and introduce them to others, so that you can determine if this is a product you might want to add to your collection. The titles are: Eragon by Paolini; Fall on Your Knees by Macdonald; The 5<sup>th</sup> Horseman by Patterson; Juliet Dove, Queen of Love and Monster's Ring by Coville; Outsiders by Hinton; Short History of Nearly Everything by Bryson; Storm Rescue: True Stories of Survival by Willis; Time Traveler's Wife by Niffenegger; Wrinkle in Time by L'Engle; You – The Owner's Manual by Roizen.

In addition we have an iPod and an MP3 player both containing books downloaded from an Audible.com subscription, plus some program podcasts. These may be borrowed for up to one month at a time so that you can try them in your library and with your patrons, to learn more about the technology and to determine if you want to add this service to your library. Contact PLS for borrowing details.



## PLS AUTHOR TOUR 2006



Author Judy Schachner was given a warm western Nebraska welcome everywhere she went. In spite of blizzards, cattle drives, and very early wake-up calls, she visited over 2000 children in Chadron, Bayard, Sidney, Ogallala, and Scottsbluff. Families waited in line for 2 hours after the program in Scottsbluff, to get a chance to meet Judy personally and obtain a treasured autograph.



Every one of the more than 400 books purchased was sold, including the *new Mummy Trouble*, which wasn't available until Judy's visit.



Thanks go to the many sponsors that made the program possible, plus the committee that worked for a year to make all the arrangements, the site coordinators who made space and equipment available, the teachers and librarians who prepared their students to get the most out of Judy's presentation and found a way to get the children there – and to Judy, who shared her life to make ours richer.





**The Nebraska Memories web site is now available: <http://www.memories.ne.gov>**

The photograph above is a sample of what you will find when you explore Nebraska's history through original images with descriptive documentation in "Nebraska Memories." This postcard shows the aftermath of a tornado on March 23, 1913, which did massive damage in the Omaha area, killing 140 and injuring over 400. The description of the item (metadata) is all searchable, which allows you to find these primary research resources by date, event, location, creator, or any key word related to the item.

The Nebraska Memories project began several years ago, during which time the collections of various institutions have been digitized. Currently, over 2300 items are available, and more are being added daily.

To date, these organizations have contributed materials to the collection:

Butler County Gallery  
Hastings Public Library  
High Plains Historical Society  
Keene Memorial Library  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
Nebraska Library Commission  
Omaha Public Library  
Polley Music Library  
Sarpy County Historical Museum  
Wayne State College

Soon to be added are items from Bellevue University, Crawford Public Library and Historical Society, Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room, Tilden Public Library.

This is a treasure of original materials that is easily accessible to anyone. Spend some time exploring these fascinating images, and then share them with others.

Does your library, historical society, or a family in your community have materials that would add to the historical record of our state? Consider doing a digital project to preserve and share these precious items. For more information and assistance, contact the Nebraska Library Commission.



**Judy Freeman**, children's literature expert, was the featured presenter at the Youth Services Retreat in eastern Nebraska in October. She recommended several websites featuring authors and illustrators that go beyond a biography and list of books, to include interviews, games, and lesson plan ideas. Use these yourself to plan book/author activities, or give them to young readers who will enjoy knowing more about their favorite authors and books. For a more complete list, contact the PLS office.

Adler, David – [www.davidaadler.com](http://www.davidaadler.com)  
Blume, Judy – [www.judyblume.com](http://www.judyblume.com)  
Brett, Jan – [www.janbrett.com](http://www.janbrett.com)  
Carle, Eric – [www.eric-carle.com](http://www.eric-carle.com)  
Coville, Bruce – [www.brucecoville.com](http://www.brucecoville.com)  
Henkes, Kevin – [www.kevinhenkes.com](http://www.kevinhenkes.com)  
Jacques, Brian – [www.redwall.org](http://www.redwall.org)  
Park, Barbara – [www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb](http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb)  
Riordan, Rick – [www.rickriordan.com](http://www.rickriordan.com)  
Snicket, Lemony – [www.lemonysnicket.com](http://www.lemonysnicket.com)  
Willems, Mo – [www.mowillems.com](http://www.mowillems.com)  
Woodson, Jacqueline – [www.jacquelinewoodson.com](http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com)

Judy Freeman was also featured in the fall 2006 edition of School Library Journal's "Curriculum Connections." She described the characteristics that make a great book for reading out loud. Here is a list of 10 books that she has recently discovered for children in grades 3-8 which fit the criteria. Because hearing books read out loud helps listeners become immersed in the language, and increases their comprehension and interest in the written word, teachers, librarians, and caregivers are encouraged to share books in this way.

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker (gr.1-4)  
Toys Go Out by Emily Jenkins (gr.K-4)  
Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (gr.3-7)  
Younguncle Comes to Town by Vandana Singh (gr.2-5)  
Bella at Midnight by Diane Stanley (gr.5-8)  
The Year of the Dog by Grace Lin (gr.3-5)  
Crooked River by Shelley Pearsall (gr. 5-8)  
All of the Above by Shelley Pearsall (gr. 4-7)  
Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleishman (gr.4-8)  
The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History by Jennifer Armstrong (gr.3-8)



### **Especially for schools----**

Who are you? This recent job ad points up a dilemma: “(our) school has an opening for a library media teacher (school librarian). We are looking for a cybrarian/media specialist to manage a high tech library and support the curricular needs of teachers and students.”

Whatever title you give her, **Laurie Bauer** has a new label: NEMA Presidential Award Winner. Congratulations for being recognized for your tireless efforts to promote school librarianship in the PLS region!

If you and your students would like to try creating a wiki, sign up for one of 100,000 wikis that will be provided free to K-12 educators. Schools are using them to promote student discussion and collaborative writing projects. [www.wikispaces.com](http://www.wikispaces.com)

National Geographic is offering free weekly podcasts featuring science news, interviews with explorers, and other virtual experiences, such as an African safari. Download them at [www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts)

Jill Martin, 2007 National Association of Secondary School Principals “Principal of the Year,” says, “Using the Internet purposefully for research enables students to utilize information from many different sources.” She has made **information literacy** a key part of the curriculum at Thomas B. Doherty High School in Colorado Springs, a school that has gone from underperforming to being one of the top in the state.

Students at Virginia’s McLean High School are protesting their school’s requirement that all student papers be submitted to the internet-based plagiarism detector, **Turnitin.com**. “We object to the mandatory use of our intellectual property by this web site. We will turn our assignments in to our teachers only, and we have the right to expect that our teachers will not turn around and reproduce those papers electronically in a for-profit internet service.” Tom Hoffman, educational software developer, commented, “This is an interesting test for everyone who writes about information ethics.”

Looking ahead: the **Golden Sower nominees** in the teen category for 2007-8 are Code Orange (Cooney); Perfect Shot (Alphin); Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie (Sonnenblick); Flush (Hiassen); The Schwa Was Here (Shusterman); Code Talker (Bruchac); Uglies (Westerfield); Lightning Thief (Riordan); Surviving Antarctica (White); Black Storm Comin’ (Wilson).

**Jack Prelutsky** has been named the first Children’s Poet Laureate. The award is sponsored by Poetry Magazine. He has written 35 books, and is known for his wit, humor, rhythm and rhyme. See his web site at [www.jackprelutsky.com](http://www.jackprelutsky.com)

The **Quill Award** for best teen book went to Christopher Paolini for his book Eldest. He is 23-years old, but wrote his first book, Eragon, at age 15. The Quill Awards are a kind of People's Choice award for literature.

Want to see a **school library web site** that is the epitome of technology in practice? Take a look at [www.grandviewlibrary.org](http://www.grandviewlibrary.org), where media specialist Sarah Chauncey includes podcast recordings of picture books read by students (gr.K-3) and a web-based newspaper containing the students' writing. She has produced a program on podcasting that you can hear free at [www.slj.com/podcasting](http://www.slj.com/podcasting).

The **Laura Bush Foundation** is inviting applications for funds to update, extend, and diversify the book and print collections of school libraries. Grants are available up to \$5000. Preference is given to schools with 90% or more students on free/reduced lunch. The deadline is December 30. <http://www.laurabushfoundation.org/>

Gail Formanack presented information at the NLA/NEMA conference about **Rule 10**, the state guidelines for school libraries. School administrators are required to report by November 1 each year about their compliance with state regulations. Check with your administrator every fall to be sure that staffing and materials are in compliance. To highlight a few items, one mandatory provision is that each school has a library media area which is available to students during the entire school day. In other words, some type of supervision needs to be provided, so that the library is not locked or used for other activities that would deny access to students who want to use library materials. Another clarification regards the minimum number of new titles that must be purchased each year. Elementary schools must acquire 25 new books per teacher up to 150 titles. This maximum may be reduced to 75 titles, if books are also available electronically – namely ebooks, not just other electronic resources. Review the staffing minimums for time that must be devoted specifically to the library, not to other assignments.

Several upcoming events in our area may be especially valuable for school library staff. See details on the flyers in this newsletter, and mark your calendar.

- **December 11** – Alliance Public Library: morning session with more advanced weeding/collection development information; afternoon session to help those who have a grant proposal idea to fine tune.
- **January 18** – Follett Users Group, with a representative from Follett who will provide information over the distance learning system at Chadron State College, Sidney ESU, and Scottsbluff ESU. In the afternoon, Sandy White will host her quarterly media meeting.
- **February 1** – New Technologies workshop – morning at WNCC Sidney campus
- **February 16** – School Library Inservice Day – Scottsbluff
- **March 22** – Alliance Public Library – technology training, to include equipment maintenance and troubleshooting, plus web page design ideas. Please add your suggestions on our blog so we can tailor it to your needs:  
<http://plssunblog.blogspot.com/>

## NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Remember that the deadline for public library **statistical reports** to be submitted is January 31. Since there can be occasional glitches in the system, it is recommended that you complete the report as soon possible to avoid last minute problems. This information can then be used for the required annual report to the local city council, which needs to be presented no later than the second Monday in February.

The deadline for submitting a grant proposal for **LSTA** funds under the **Library Improvement Grant** program is December 28. This federal funding is administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, and is available to accredited public libraries.

The Nebraska Library Commission has a service that provides **sets of books for book discussion groups**. To see a list of titles, go to [www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html).

The new **Continuing Education coordinator** at the Nebraska Library Commission is **Laura Johnson**. The new position of Technology Librarian, within the Network Services Department, is expected to be staffed beginning in March.

Have you seen the new addition to the NLC web site? Check out “**Now Hiring @your library**.” It provides information on library careers, educational and scholarship opportunities, job listings, and recruitment tools.

The **Nebraska Center for the Book** honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or are set in/concern Nebraska. The winners for 2006 are:  
**Anthology:** [Slamma Lamma Ding Dong: an Anthology of Nebraska's Slam Poets](#)  
**Youth:** [The Nebraska Adventure](#) – Jean Lukesh  
**Design/Illustration:** [These Trespasses](#) by Jim Reese  
**Fiction:** [This is Not the Tropics](#) by Ladette Randolph  
**Nonfiction:** [Impertinences](#) by Elia Peattie  
**Nonfiction Honor:** [Rainmakers](#) by the Groundwater Foundation  
**Poetry:** [No Accident](#) by Aaron Anstett

If you need information about one of the NLC programs, such as NebraskAccess, NetLibrary, CatExpress, OCLC, Heritage Quest, and others, check the list of **online training** available at the NLC web site: [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us). On the left side of the page, select “commission training,” then type “recorded sessions” into the search box. These sessions are available anytime to anyone, and viewers are eligible for 1hour of CE credit per session.

*The Nebraska Library Commission is our state library and is located in downtown Lincoln. It provides the funding for each of the Regional Library Systems, distributes state aid to libraries, administers grant funding, coordinates the accreditation and certification programs, and provides statewide training, consulting and leadership.*

A **book repair kit**, purchased jointly by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, is available to any library to borrow. It is currently housed at the Eastern Library System. PLS libraries may contact the PLS office if you would like to use it, and we will make arrangements.

Oshkosh PL recently celebrated the grand opening of their **library addition** – all funded with local funds. It provides meeting space and a larger area for the children’s materials and activities.

The **new movie** version of E.B.White’s classic Charlotte’s Web will open in theaters on December 20. DK Publishing is offering a companion book, Charlotte’s Web: the Essential Guide, for children ages 5-8, which includes facts about animals and farm life as well as information about the film. Additional resources are available at [www.charlotteswebmovie.com](http://www.charlotteswebmovie.com).

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center in Chadron will be coordinating the “**One Book, One Nebraska**” program for 2007, featuring the book Crazy Horse by Mari Sandoz. In contrast to this year’s contemporary novel, this will be a return to a classic work by a Nebraska author from the past.

The Nebraska **open meetings law** will be tested in a lawsuit in Banner County. Residents contend that county commissioners did not comply with public notice requirements, agenda regulations, and public posting of minutes. Another complaint relates to improper use of executive session.



**BITS**

and

The theme of **National Library Week 2007** is “Come Together @ your library.” It is scheduled for April 15-21.

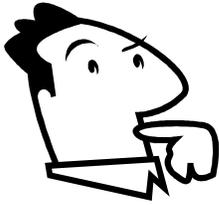
A new book award, the **American Indian Youth Literature Award**, was given to Beaver Steals Fire: a Salish Coyote Story, for the elementary level; The Birchbark House for middle school; Hidden Roots for the young adult level.

PLS Board member Jim Soester finds **interesting library information** at tech expert Marylaine Block’s web site: <http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html> She calls attention to unusual web sites that may be of interest to library folks. One is the “daily top-selling 10 books by subject” as reported by Barnes and Noble. Another is a library use value calculator, which can be added to your website to let users calculate how much the materials they borrow and the assistance they get from the library would cost if they had to buy it.

Over 5000 **teens** cast online ballots for their **favorite books** during Teen Read Week. The top 10 are: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (Rowling); Twilight (Meyer); Eldest (Paolini); Rebel Angels (Bray); Peeps (Westerfield); 13 Little Blue Envelopes (Johnson); Poison (Wooding); Captain Hook (Hart); If I Have A Wicked Stepmother, Where’s My Prince (Kantor); Elsewhere (Zevin). Remember that the first **Teen Tech Week** is coming March 4-10. The purpose is to encourage teens to use libraries’ non-print resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are professionals in the field of technology.



**PIECES**



## TRUSTEE TIPS

Every public library will soon receive a copy of the newly revised **Library Board Manual**. It is also available online at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/neboardmanual/index.html> Your continued feedback as you use it will help make it a more useful tool. Remember that you can earn CE credit by reviewing the chapters and doing the activity sheets.

A recent report on the “state of America’s libraries” based on a survey of **the public’s perceptions of libraries**, may help us evaluate our own library services and how well they match public expectations. Of those responding 93% said their library is friendly; 93% said it was convenient; 91% said it was comfortable; 86% said it is modern; 84% said the librarians were highly skilled; 83% said the technology was up to date. 85% thought their library needed more funding.

According to the Whole Library Handbook (2006), **today’s library is defined as a** “collection of resources in a variety of formats that is organized by information professionals who provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic or intellectual access, and offer targeted services and programs with the mission of educating, informing or entertaining a variety of audiences, and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole.” That’s a mouthful! But think about where your library fits into that definition.

Circle **March 27** on your calendar. On that day, Sally Reed, the president of **Friends of the Library USA**, will do a program in two locations in Nebraska. The closest one to our area is North Platte. She will give us information on ways to increase support of libraries in our communities – not only with Friends of the Library groups, but other methods as well. The Nebraska Library Commission purchased a membership in FOLUSA for every public library in the state this year, which will entitle your library to special materials and assistance for starting or renewing your Friends group. Take advantage of this special opportunity to expand the visibility and value of your library!

Looking for a way to earn some of those 20 hours that your board has to accumulate over 3 years to maintain your accreditation? The Nebraska Library Commission has obtained a **new video**: “Holding an Effective Meeting.” You may borrow it free by contacting the Commission at 800-307-2665.

*Spoken by a finance committee member in Milford, Massachusetts: “My opinion is, no one dies if the library closes. We have to look at parts of the budget that reflect people’s ability to live – not to enjoy life, just to live.”*

**Panhandle Library System Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2006**  
**Bluffs Business Center Conference Room**  
**1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE**

Diane Downer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the following Board Members present: Vickie Retzlaff, Ruth Walker, Lillian Dedrichsen, Cindy Mielke, Jill Ellis, Jim Soester, Eileen Nightingale, Allison McBride, Kathy Terrell, Diane Downer. Also present were: Scott Kiney from Chadron Public Library, Richard Miller representing the Nebraska Library Commission, Cherie Longmuir, PLS coordinator, Debbie McCall PLS Assistant.

Allison moved to accept the minutes as printed; seconded by Vickie; motion carried.

Allison McBride reported that she has a new assistant, Misty Graham. Two of her computers died. Ruth Walker reported that there is a new principal at the high school. The server at the grade school went down. Lillian Diedrichsen reported that there would be a new video-dvd camera at Minatare, plus several new staff. Kathy Terrell reported that she has been assigned to Cedar Canyon and Haig and is trying to get the libraries in order. She is hoping to get back to the Gering Schools soon to do skills.

Diane welcomed Eileen Nightingale as a new board member. Eileen took Sue Gosnell's position. Sue has moved to Wyoming. Everyone introduced themselves to Eileen.

Jill reported on the annual meeting. The board looked over the evaluations. The next annual meeting will be the Friday after Oregon Trail Days, 2007.

Lillian gave a report on the author tour that is coming up on October 17 through October 19, 2006. An author tour-planning meeting was held in Bayard with forty-five people attending. Each school that was represented received the book Mr. Emerson's Cook. Each school was given a packet with activities that could be done to go along with the books. Jenny Powell from the Scottsbluff Public Library put this packet together. Judy Schachner created a bookmark for the kids in the Panhandle that will be passed out at the performances. There was \$3425 received for the tour in grants and donations.

The committees are: Annual meeting, Jill, Eileen, and Sharon; CE Tech, Jim, Scott Kinney, Allison, Kathy, and Cindy; Nominating, Vickie and Diane; Public Relations, Lillian, Nancy, Deb, Laurie, and Carla; Scholarship and Awards, Lillian, Ruth, and Carol Luna.

Beth Trupp sent a thank you note to the system for sponsoring the summer reading program.

Richard Miller from the Nebraska Library Commission gave the Commission report. Linda Jensen has just been hired as an assistant in library development. The Nebraska Book Festival will be October 7 and 8. Dr. Becky Pasco and Karen Hein are traveling around the state to inform people about the variety of library science courses available in Nebraska. The Regional Library Systems received a grant to provide a bus to attend MPLA Conference in March in New Mexico. Nancy Bolt will be in Scottsbluff for a leadership workshop in November. Karen Hyman will present a workshop on Customer Service in Libraries at North Platte in April. Letters About Literature posters and letters were passed out to encourage students to write letters to authors about the way a book has changed their view of the world. Fiction Connection has a tutorial on the NLC website under the librarians' toolbox. Youth Grants for Excellence are available for public libraries. NEBASE Annual Meeting West will be September 27, 2006 in Chadron. WorldCat.org can be added to a library's web site. Other items that are coming up can be viewed at the NLC website.

Cherie gave the coordinator's report. The NEMA/PLS Institute was held in August. Cherie attended a rural entrepreneurship workshop in Bridgeport to promote library resources. Cherie gave the budget report, including the Financial Statement/audit.

A member survey was sent out to 55 members and 38 responded. Most of the questions split evenly for the answers. After discussion about changing the number of members on the PLS Board, Allison moved that no change be made. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion carried. The group brainstormed on other ways to provide program support for our libraries. One idea was to create a resource database of presenters. We might provide some grants to help libraries get their own programs.

Upcoming events include Dinner and Dialog to get librarians and community officials together. Cherie will present 2 weeding workshops for RVLS in September. Alex Kava is going to coming to the area to speak at Ogallala and Alliance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The committees will be meeting this afternoon. The next Board meeting will be November 14, 2006 at the D. A. Murphy Library.

Ruth Walker, Secretary

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### Your System Board Members:

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Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President  
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Cindy Mielke  
Eileen Nightingale  
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Kathy Terrell

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Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel,  
Garden, Grant, Keith,  
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff,  
Sheridan and Sioux  
Counties

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